

Pawsitive Squad CIC Infection Control & Immunisation Policy

Policy statement:

At Pawsitive Squad CIC,

- We understand the importance of having clear infection control policy and procedures to minimise the risk of spreading infection disease, such as Covid 19, between service users, volunteers and staff.
- We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to saves lives.
- We believe that, to protect the health of all service users, staff and volunteers that everyone accessing our service face to face should be up to date on vaccination, in line with the routine immunisation schedule, unless their is a legitimate and verified reason not to.
(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1055877/UKHSA-12155-routine-complete-immunisation-schedule_Feb2022.pdf)
- We understand that there will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccination.
- We understand that medically fragile service users may be more likely to suffer serious consequences of contracting vaccine preventable diseases.
- We understand that medical conditions may make vaccination not safe or possible for an individual or that vaccines may be less effective in some individuals due to underlying medical conditions.
- We understand that vaccination is not a 100% reliable method for preventing all conditions which are vaccinated against in the UK and that we cannot guarantee any service user will not contract a disease which is vaccinated against.

Policy aims:

- to minimise the risk of spreading and contracting contagious diseases from other service users, staff or volunteers while accessing our service face to face.
- to help protect the health of service users who are either unable to be vaccinated or who are more likely to experience severe outcomes if they contract infectious diseases.

Infection control procedures:

- Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunisation (at least 1 dose) mandatory for all staff, volunteers, parents & carers and young people over 18 months accessing face to face services (except services provided in public areas), unless a medical exemption letter from your GP/specialist is provided.
- Covid-19 immunisation (at least 2 doses) mandatory for all staff, volunteers, parents & carers and young people over 18 years old to accessing face to face services unless a medical exemption letter from your GP/specialist is provided.
- All equipment is cleaned with antibacterial cleaner (or isolated for minimum of 5 days between uses if item is difficult to clean effectively) between washes.
- All clients are required to bring their own hand sanitiser/ wipes, failure to do so would result in being unable to access the session until they have them.
- Social distancing of 2m required between service user households/ care teams
- 2m social distancing between dogs to minimise risk of kennel cough or other diseases between dogs.
- Before and after contact with any company/communal equipment, hands must be washed or sanitised thoroughly.
- If any Staff, volunteers and service users have had any potentially contagious respiratory illness such as cold, covid or flu) they are forbidden to attend any face-to-face services until at least 10 days since onset of symptoms.
- If any Staff, volunteers and service users have had any potentially contagious gastro illness such as vomiting or diarrhoea bugs) they are forbidden to attend any face-to-face services until at least 72 hours after symptoms have passed.